

colouring until October 1917, when I released it on my leaving Chinwangtao. This bird was principally fed on bread and milk and raw beef, but also ate small millet, insects, grapes, and the fruit of *Cratægus pinnatifida*. It remained very shy almost to the last, and I never heard it utter any sound but its cry of alarm.

N.B.—*M. pallida* (Pall.) most probably occurs here also on migration, but I have not procured any specimens.

[To be continued.]

XXIV.—*Some Observations on the Birds of Islands of Milos, Lemnos, and Imbros, Ægean Sea.* By J. H. STENHOUSE, M.B., R.N.

THE following notes are based on observations made during the winter season of 1915-16 in three islands of the Greek Archipelago—viz., Milos from 25 November to 13 December; Lemnos from 14 December to 23 December; and Imbros from 25 December to 21 January. Of these islands, Imbros lies nearest the European coast, being about 12 miles from the Dardanelles; Lemnos is 30 miles away to the south-west and about 40 miles due south of the Greco-Bulgarian coast; while Milos is the south-western island of the group, being about 60 miles off the south-eastern coast of Greece and 70 miles north of Crete. Owing to the difference in latitude, Milos has a much milder winter climate than either of the other two. Lemnos is very bare, with hardly a tree. Imbros is better covered with vegetation, and pines grow in places on the hills. Milos is a volcanic island in which activity is not yet at an end. It is roughly horseshoe-shaped, and the northern half has only a few olive-groves to break the monotony of its surface, though there are many vineyards. The southern half is mountainous, rising to well over 2000 feet, while there are a considerable number of pines and other trees on this side. The lack of woods limits to a great extent the number of

resident birds, and those observed were chiefly winter visitors. In the migration seasons Lemnos at least (and doubtless the other islands also) is visited by great numbers of continental birds on their way to and from Africa.

The birds observed were :—

Corvus corax subsp.? Raven.

Seen in all three islands and usually in pairs. This bird is probably resident.

Corvus cornix subsp.? Hooded Crow.

In Milos they were generally in pairs. Many frequented the limestone sea-cliffs north of the harbour, and were very light in colour. They are doubtless resident on the island. In Lemnos the bird was regularly seen; generally solitary and very wary. In Imbros there were two large flocks, which were quite easily approached. These were much darker than the Milos birds, and in all probability were northern migrants.

Corvus corone corone. Carrion-Crow.

One was seen at Imbros on two occasions with a flock of "Hoodies."

Corvus frugilegus subsp.? Rook.

Two were seen in Imbros with a flock of Hooded Crows.

Cervus monedula subsp.? Jackdaw.

This bird was seen at both Lemnos and Imbros. In the former island there was a large flock; in the latter island there were many constantly accompanying both flocks of "Hoodies." They were not "*collaris*."

Alauda arvensis cantarella Bp. Skylark.

♂. Lemnos, 16. xii. 15. ♀. Imbros, 31. xii. 15.

Flocks were common in all three islands. In Milos they were very wild, having been much disturbed by "Alouette" hunters. In Lemnos and Imbros they were quite easily approached. Out of eleven shot on 31 December, six had

wings measuring 115 mm. and over, and five wing-measurements between 105–108 mm.

Lullula arborea flavescens. Wood-Lark.

♂. Imbros, 11. i. 16. ♀. Imbros, 11. i. 16; 7. i. 16.

Was seen only at Imbros and was not uncommon. The birds were in parties of about half-a-dozen, and were usually met with on low cultivated ground; but the first seen were high up on a rough hillside.

Galerida cristata cypriaca. Crested Lark.

♂. Lemnos, 19. xii. 15; 23. xii. 15. ♂. Milos, 26. xi. 15.

♂. Imbros, 27. xii. 15.

♀. Milos, 4. xii. 15. ♀. Lemnos, 18. xii. 15; 23. xii. 15.

Fairly common in all three islands. In Milos the birds were shy and specimens were not easily obtained, probably the result of too many attentions from the "Alouette" hunters; in that island they frequented the rough scrub near cultivation as much as fields or vineyards. On Lemnos and Imbros they were very tame, and usually found in the neighbourhood of farm-buildings. Dr. Hartert has kindly examined my specimens, and says they seem to belong to the above race.

Chloris chloris mähler. Greenfinch.

♂. Imbros, 17. i. 16. ♀ juv. Imbros, 17. i. 16.

Was seen only in Imbros. A single bird was noticed on 14 January, and on 7 January a flock of about twenty was met with on sandy ground near the sea. They were very quarrelsome when feeding and allowed a near approach. It is surprising none were seen in Milos. This bird (subsp. *aurantiventris*?) breeds in Crete.

Fringilla cœlebs cœlebs. Chaffinch.

♀. Milos, 5. xii. 15; 7. xii. 15.

Common in all three islands, and probably resident. In the flocks seen both sexes were present though females predominated.

Carduelis carduelis härmsi. Goldfinch.

2 ♂ . Milos, 1. xii. 15. ♂ . Lemnos, 19. xii. 15. ♀ . Milos, 1. xii. 15.

Numerous in all the islands. In Milos the birds formed flocks by themselves ; in Lemnos they were associating with Serins and Linnets and in Imbros with Linnets. One flock seen at Milos consisted of at least 200 individuals ; they were very noisy when settling down for the night. They are probably resident in all the islands, though but few can breed in Lemnos on account of the scarcity of trees. Dr. Hartert writes : " I consider these to be *C. c. härmsi*, which is the latest name for *brevirostris* and *minor*, both names being preoccupied."

Carduelis carduelis loudoni.

♂ . Milos, 1. 12. 15.

Dr. Hartert writes of this specimen : " This bird is more reddish than any *härmsi* that I have before me ; it agrees with our *C. c. loudoni*, received from London, which is said to nest in N.W. Persia and winters at Lenkoran."

Carduelis cannabina mediterranea. Linnet.

♂ . Imbros, 3. xii. 15. ♀ . Imbros, 3. xii. 15.

Was present in all the islands. In Milos the birds were very shy and were in company with Serins. In Lemnos they were accompanied by Serins and Goldfinches and in Imbros by Goldfinches, being much more easily approached.

Serinus canarius serinus. Serin.

♀ . Milos, 4. xii. 15.

Was fairly common. In Milos the birds consorted with Linnets ; in Lemnos with Linnets and Goldfinches ; while in Imbros those seen were in a flock by themselves. It is doubtful if they are resident.

Passer domesticus subsp. ? House-Sparrow.

Was noticed only in Imbros, where there were a few in the villages.

Emberiza calandra græca. Corn-Bunting.

2 ♀. Milos, 9. xii. 15. 2 ♀. Imbros, 31. xii. 15.

Was seen only in Milos and Imbros. In the former island a flock of about thirty was seen on 1 December and again on 9 December. In Imbros it was fairly common in small parties, and appeared to be accompanying the flocks of Skylarks. One was shot out of a flock of those birds. These Buntings were quite silent.

Emberiza cirrus. Cirl Bunting.

♀. Imbros, 30. xii. 15. Sex? Imbros, 25. xii. 15.

A small flock was seen at Lemnos on 16 December. In Imbros they were fairly common on the low grounds near the sea. They spent much of their time searching for food under bushes, and were therefore difficult to obtain unless first disturbed, when they usually settled on the tops of other bushes near.

Anthus pratensis. Meadow-Pipit.

♂. Milos, 5. xii. 15. ♀. Imbros, 27. xii. 15.

Was recognised only in Milos and Imbros. In the former island individuals were met with close to the sea-shore and singly. In Imbros they were in small flocks, frequenting rough ground near cultivation. A large flock of Pipits seen high up on the hillsides at Lemnos may have been Water-Pipits; they were very wild and no specimen was secured.

Motacilla alba. White Wagtail.

Was fairly common on all three islands.

Motacilla boarula boarula. Grey Wagtail.

Several were seen at Milos close to the sea-shore.

Parus major peloponnesius. Great Tit.

♀. Imbros, 14. i. 16.

Seen only at Imbros. One was found searching the branches of a poplar-tree on 14 January, and proved to be a female. Two others were seen on 21 January after

colder weather. About this time there was a large influx of birds into the island; the European shore to the north was well covered with snow.

Parus cæruleus cæruleus. Blue Tit.

♂. Imbros, 25. xii. 15. ♀. Imbros, 25. xii. 15.

Two were seen at Imbros on 25 December, and proved to be a pair. Another was seen on 14 January, and several in an olive grove on 21 January.

Sylvia melanocephala. Sardinian Warbler.

Was seen on several occasions in Imbros. A darker Warbler was seen twice in Imbros and once in Milos; it skulked so persistently that it could not be identified, and all efforts to secure a specimen were failures.

Phylloscopus collybita collybita. Chiffchaff.

♂. Milos, 28. xi. 15. ♀. Milos, 11. i. 16.

On 28 November, during a spell of very cold weather, three Chiffchaffs were seen in Milos. They appeared to have just arrived, and were searching for food along the stone walls and low down in oleanders. Later, several were seen among the pine-trees on the south side of the island. None were seen in Lemnos. In Imbros on 11 January, a lovely warm day, two were met with fly-catching from high oleanders on the banks of a stream, and one was secured.

Phylloscopus collybita tristis.

♀. 14. i. 16.

On 14 January a Siberian Chiffchaff was found with a Great Tit and a Blue Tit searching the leafless branches of a poplar-tree.

Prunella modularis modularis. Hedge-Sparrow.

♂. Imbros, 27. xii. 15.

Observed only at Imbros. Three were seen altogether and one obtained.

Erithacus rubecula rubecula. Redbreast.

♂. Milos, 7. xii. 15.

On Milos six Redbreasts were seen, and one procured proved to be the typical form; they were as a rule very shy. One was heard singing there on 7 December.

Erithacus rubecula xanthothorax?

♂. Lemnos, 23. xii. 15. ♂. Imbros, 21. i. 16.

Dr. Hartert writes: "I am by no means sure about them. Could they not be very fresh-plumaged *E. r. xanthothorax*? They were described from Rhodes (February specimens), and had the upper side rather more olivaceous, the throat a little more yellowish. I almost think they might be that." In Lemnos only one was seen skulking among oleanders; in Imbros, Redbreasts were fairly common and quite confiding.

Phœnicurus titys. Black Redstart.

♀. Milos, 5. xii. 15.

Was common on rocky ground on all three islands. Very few adult males were among them.

Saxicola rubicola rubicola. Stonechat.

♂. Imbros, 30. xii. 15. ♀. Imbros, 25. xii. 15; 27. xii. 15.

Common in all three islands and nearly always in pairs. These birds are in all probability resident.

Turdus pilaris. Fieldfare.

♀. Milos, 28. xi. 15.

Three were seen in Milos after the cold snap on 28 November. They were very easily approached. The stomach of one shot contained a few small land molluscs and the remains of berries.

Turdus musicus musicus. Song-Thrush.

♀. Imbros, 14. i. 16.

Seen only in Imbros, where a few very wild birds were put up among the scrub on the hillsides. On 21 January,

after the snowfall on the mainland, their numbers were greatly increased, but they were still very shy.

Turdus merula aterrima. Blackbird.

♂. Imbros, 21. i. 16.

Two, a pair, were seen in Milos and two males at Lemnos. All were skulking and shy. In Imbros this bird was much more plentiful, and many arrived after the snowfall about 20 January. They were not easily approached, and a female could not be secured.

Athene noctua indigena. Little Owl.

♀. Milos, 9. xii. 15.

Was observed in all the three islands. In Milos these birds inhabit the rough stone walls which face the terraces of the vineyards.

Vanellus vanellus. Lapwing.

Was present in small numbers in Milos on 25 November, but disappeared on the arrival of the cold snap on 28 November, and was not again seen. It was not observed on the other islands.

Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus. Kentish Plover.

2 ♀. Imbros, 17. i. 16.

Seen only in Imbros, where a few were found at the edges of a salt-water lagoon.

Tringa alpina alpina. Dunlin.

♂. Imbros, 17. i. 16. ♀. Imbros, 17. i. 16.

Met with only in Imbros and at the same salt-water lagoon.

I am much indebted to Dr. Hartert and Dr. Eagle Clarke for having kindly examined my specimens from these islands, which are now in the collection at the Royal Scottish Museum.